

REMARKS

This timely replies the Office Action mailed on February 26, 2004. Claims 1-14 and 16-22 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 11, 20, 21 and 22 are independent claims.

In view of the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 10-14, 16 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 8-294030 issued to Wakabayashi, *et al.* (“Wakabayashi”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,099,336 issued to Harris, *et al.* (“Harris”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites “a control unit which *prevents* the combination unit from combining the digital electronic signal with the electronic signal *when the specific phone number of the remote device coincides with the phone number stored in the storage unit*”. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that this claimed feature is disclosed in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 of Wakabayashi. This assertion is respectfully disagreed with.

Wakabayashi is directed to a wireless telephone handset that can be used for hand-free video conference, as shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 shows the handset of Fig. 1 after the speaker/lens unit is turned around to hide the lens. Figs. 6 and 7 show a cross-sectional view and a front view of the handset in Fig. 5, respectivley.

However, Figs. 5, 6 and 7 do not disclose or suggest the claimed “control unit” that *prevents combining the digital electronic signal with the electronic signal when a specific number of a remote device coincides with the number stored in the memory unit.*

The secondary reference to Harris is directed to a wireless handset unit that is capable of a video conference, but does not cure the deficiency from Wakabayashi. Since none of the cited reference discloses or suggests this claimed feature, it would not have been obvious to combine or modify the teachings from the cited references to arrive at the claimed invention. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-7, 10, 16, 18 and 19 that are dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Similarly, independent claims 11, 20, 21 and 22 recite preventing from combining the digital electronic signal with the electronic signal when a specific number of a remote device coincides with the number stored in the memory unit. Thus, it is submitted that claims 11, 20, 21 and 22 are patentable. Claims 12-14 that are dependent from claim 11 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-7, 10-14, 16 and 18-22.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wakabayashi in view of Harris, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,510,829 to Sugiyama, et al. (“Sugiyama”). This rejection is respectfully disagreed.

Claims 8 and 9 are dependent from claim 1. As previously mentioned, claim 1 is patentable over Wakabayashi and Harris. For example, these references fail to disclose or suggest “a control unit which prevents the combination unit from combining the digital

electronic signal with the electronic signal when the specific phone number of the remote device coincides with the phone number stored in the storage unit”, as recited in claim 1.

Sugiyama is directed to a voice/video communication device but *does not disclose or suggest* preventing from combining the digital electronic signal (e.g., image signal) with the electronic signal (voice signal) when a specific number of a remote device coincides with the number stored in the memory unit. Sugiyama fails to cure the deficiency from Wakabayashi and Harris.

Thus, it is submitted that claim1 is still patentable over Wakabayashi, Harris and Sugiyama. Claims 8 and 9 that are dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 9.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wakabayashi in view of Harris, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,491,507 to Umezawa, et al. (“Umezawa”). This rejection is respectfully disagreed.

Claim 17 is dependent from claim 1. As previously mentioned, claim 1 is patentable over Wakabayashi and Harris. For example, these references fail to disclose or suggest “a control unit which prevents the combination unit from combining the digital electronic signal with the electronic signal when the specific phone number of the remote device coincides with the phone number stored in the storage unit”, as recited in claim 1.

Umezawa is directed to a video phone handset that allows to transmit picture and voice. However, Umezawa *does not disclose or suggest* preventing from combining the digital

electronic signal (e.g., image signal) with the electronic signal (voice signal) when a specific number of a remote device coincides with the number stored in the memory unit. Umezawa fails to cure the deficiency from Wakabayashi and Harris.

Thus, it is submitted that claim1 is still patentable over Wakabayashi, Harris and Umezawa. Claim 17 that is dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 17.

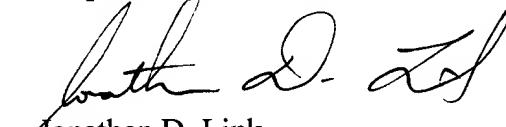
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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